

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

January 27, 2011

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Maria Alvarez, Chair
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Elena Asturias
Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin
Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata
Committee Advisor, Dr. Joseph Spinelli
Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

1. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the December 15, 2010 Committee Meeting

2. San Francisco Zoo Director's Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Ms. Peterson presented a video showing the arrival of the male hippopotamus from the Topeka Zoo on January 6, 2010. He was also seen taking his first swim in his new exhibit. January attendance to date is above projection with actual visitors of 39,207 versus budget of 28,300. Reviewing event happenings, on February 13th the San Francisco Zoo will be celebrating Lunar New Year, Year of the Hare. Persons born in the Year of The Hare will be admitted free of charge. Also, on display at Entry Village is a pair of giant Digital Origami Tigers. These two big cats will commemorate the end (Year of the Tiger) and beginning (Year of the Hare) of the Chinese New Year. The monumental-sized public sculptures measure 8 feet tall, 23 feet long, and weigh 440 pounds total, and they were created with 100 percent recyclable materials. Adopted by the World Wildlife Fund in 2010, the two have traveled the world with stops in Australia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Berlin and Singapore. The San Francisco Zoo is its first stateside venue and the Digital Origami Tiger tour will be on display here through February 28. Announcing some staffing changes, Ms. Peterson reported that after many years of service to the San Francisco Zoo, Mike Sulak and Bob Jenkins have retired. She thanked both for their dedication to the Zoo. Coming on board is Dave Bocian who will assume the position as Vice President of Animal Care & Enrichment.

Committee Advisor Stephens asked the question as to why the hippo was not let out of its crate when it arrived at night at the Zoo. Mr. Sulak answered that waiting until morning to complete the process was done for the safety of both the animal and zoo staff as the area is not lit at night. He was fed and checked by veterinary and animal care staff who felt he would be more comfortable in the crate overnight. Mr. Sulak also wanted to note the fact of the animal being flown here limited greatly the time he was in the crate. Ms. Stephens also voiced concern the female Duiker has been moved by herself to the Savanna from the family group she had been with in another area of the Zoo. Mr. Sulak responded the Duiker is a solitary animal by nature. As she had been with two males and there are no plans to breed, the move was made. Ms. Stephens asked if the Baird's tapir has access to his night quarters at all times. Mr. Sulak stated that the animal is constantly being monitored with adjustments made for his accommodation as necessary to fulfill his needs. Committee Advisor Spinelli asked how he was doing, and the response was unfortunately not as well as he has been doing.

Member of Public, Mark Ennis, questioned how long the hippo was in the crate and what the cost of transport was to the Zoo. Mr. Sulak responded that he did not have the information on the total time the animal was crated and that there was no cost to the Zoo for transporting.

Member of Public, Philip Gerrie, asked if there is going to be someone taking on the liaison position held by Mr. Jenkins as he feels that Mr. Jenkins was open and offered a needed communication with the public. Ms. Peterson stated that the duties would be divided among staff at the same level of service previously provided.

3. **Animal Transactions.** (Action Item)
Mike Sulak, General Curator, SFZS

ACTION: MSA

SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - January 2011

DONATION FROM:		PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Topeka Zoological Park	River hippopotamus	NIL	N/A
635 SW Gage Blvd.	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius.</i>		
Topeka, KS 66606			
785/368-9180 tel			
785/368-9152 fax			
USDA # 48-C-0003			

Member of Public, Pam Hemphill, question the necessity of approval of an item which has already happened. Mr. Sulak stated that per the Animal Acquisition Policy, the Recreation and Parks Commission has granted authority to the Zoo Director to acquire an animal prior to the Committee meeting. While the desire is to approve the transactions prior to the actual acquisition, timing does not always make this possible. Ms. Peterson stated that per the Lease/Management Agreement, while the animals are under the care and responsibility of the Zoological Society, some become the property of the City and therefore must be accepted as such in the possibility that the City would have to take possession.

4. **Animal Updates.** (Discussion)
Mike Sulak, General Curator, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – DECEMBER 2010					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		ACQUISITIONS			
15Sep	0.0.1	Queensland koala	Birth		Born 15 Sep 2010 +/- week; still in pouch
6	0.0.1	American alligator	Loan in		Audubon, loan exchange
22	1.0	Giant anteater	Birth		Born 22 Dec 2010
		DISPOSITION		Age at Death	
2	0.1	California kingsnake	Death	12Y 2M 1D	Pending
11	1.0	Virginia opossum	Death	2Y 9M 11D	Pending
13	1.0	Goat	Death	11Y 9M 9D	Pending
18	0.1	Bar-headed goose	Death	23Y 7M 19D	Pending
21	1.0	North American porcupine	Death	13Y 7M 21D	Pending

Committee Advisor Spinelli asked if goats are bred at the Zoo. Mr. Sulak responded that in the past they have been but currently they are not.

Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked if the anteater had been artificially inseminated and what is her age. Mr. Sulak answered that she had not been artificially inseminated and she is about two years of age.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
No announcements.
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
No announcements.
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
There was no old business.
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
Advisor Stephens stated that she would like to have a report presented on animal transport procedures. This item will be put on a future agenda.
10. **Public Comments:** Members of the public may address the committee on matters that are within the committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.
Member of the Public, Philip Gerrie, stated that he commended the decision to have the Committee meetings held at the Zoo and at a later time in the day as he feels this provides accessibility to a greater audience.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.